



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



August/September 2020 News & Updates

Hello,

The tension in this country is at a fever pitch and it often seems like 'the other side' is living on a different planet. Unfortunately, these divisions probably won't subside once the presidential election is over -- regardless of who wins. In my opinion, the only way we can bridge these gaps is to start having civil, open conversations with each other about our differences.

Wednesday afternoon I met with a married couple who lives in District 3. Sitting outside, at opposite ends of a long table, we discussed local and national issues for more than an hour. We openly and firmly disagreed on just about everything: the mask mandate, vaccinations, the purpose and merit of Social Security, the presidential candidates, etc. Clearly this couple and I have vastly different perspectives of our world and how we should be tackling today's issues. It may have been a challenging meeting, but at no time did it become uncivil.

My meeting with these constituents didn't result in any changed positions. At the end, we bumped elbows and called it a day. But conversations like this are important because it then becomes harder to think of the opposite side as "enemies," and we start seeing them more as fellow Americans. This is how we'll begin to heal the country.

During this holiday weekend, I hope you'll have a chance to reach out to a friend or family member from the other side and have an honest discussion. Don't try to change their mind, just try to understand.

Thank you for your time and happy Labor Day,

Rick Minor

Commissioner, Leon County District 3

MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter each month, please ask them to sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you!

Leon County Institutes Curfew *at Request of Law Enforcement*

By request of law enforcement, Leon County has instituted a curfew effective from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am Wednesday (September 2) and continuing each day until Tuesday (September 8) morning.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



LEON CARES



LEON CARES

Apply for assistance
LeonCountyCARES.com

Last month, our Commission approved a spending plan for \$51.2 million in federal aid money allocated from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

If you have been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive direct assistance through Leon County's Leon CARES program. Our one-stop portal at LeonCountyCARES.com will allow you to:

- Apply for direct assistance
- Verify your program eligibility
- Receive assistance from other Leon CARES-supported community programs

You can learn more about these specific programs at the links below:

LEON CARES
Assistance
for Individuals
Impacted by
COVID-19

Individual Assistance

Assists Leon County households with past-due rent, mortgage and utility bills.

Review eligibility criteria [HERE](#).

Review brochure [HERE](#).

LEON CARES
Direct Assistance
for Businesses
Impacted by
COVID-19

Small Business Assistance

Assists Leon County businesses with COVID-19 expenses such as employee wages, vendor bills, rent, utilities, promotion, and safety costs.

Review brochure [HERE](#).

Need help applying? You can get help at LeonCountyCARES.com/ApplicationHelp or from the following Local Community Partners:

- ECHO, Inc. – (850) 224-3246
- Tallahassee Urban League – (850) 222-6111
- Greater Frenchtown Area Revitalization Council – (850) 284-0366
- Leon County Public Libraries – (850) 606-2665
- Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships – (850) 606-1900

Or call the Leon CARES Call Center at (855) 203-6584

COVID-19 Updates

Leon County Emergency Management is

committed to actively monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness efforts with local health officials, healthcare providers, first responders, and other critical emergency response functions.

Stay informed on mobile testing opportunities and other up-to-date information by downloading the Leon County Citizens Connect app or visiting LeonCountyFL.gov/ei.

If you suspect you have COVID-19, be sure to contact your local healthcare provider. If you don't have one, you can call the 24/7 COVID-19 call center at (866) 779-6121. Leon County residents can also call the County Health Department at (850) 404-6300, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Map of Leon County COVID-19 Testing Sites

Leon County has launched a very useful online mapping application to view COVID-19 testing sites. The map, available [here](#), allows users to view details on testing sites within Leon County and find which one is most convenient for them. It also shows details such as test type, costs, and whether an appointment is required.



**Leon County
COVID19 Testing Sites Map**

Free Face Coverings

Need reusable face coverings? The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Opportunity (OEV) is hosting free pick-up days for local small businesses.

Pick-ups are Monday through Friday between 9-5 at the OEV office (315 S. Calhoun Street, Suite 110) while supplies last.

In addition, all Leon County libraries are offering free cloth face coverings to members of the public. Locations and hours are listed at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Library



Small Business Loans

Small businesses and non-profits impacted by the pandemic can still apply for a COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan. These loans can be used to cover a wide array of working capital and normal operating expenses, such as continuation to health care benefits, rent, utilities and fixed debt payments.

Learn more at: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>.



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Carbon Neutral Campaign Pledge

Rick is partnering with Sustainable Tallahassee to help local political candidates commit to carbon neutral campaigns.

Rick himself has run two carbon neutral campaigns and this year he encouraged 21 local candidates do the same. These candidates have pledged to offset the greenhouse gases created by the production and use of political mail pieces, yard signs and other campaign activities.

Once their campaigns have concluded, each of these 21 candidates will fulfill their commitment by making a monetary donation to a carbon offset fund of their choosing. Carbon offset funds invest in carbon-reducing projects, thus negating the effect of the greenhouse gases produced by a campaign.

To learn more about the Carbon Neutral Campaign Pledge and to see the list of the 21 candidates who have signed on, [CLICK HERE](#).



County Reopens Meridian Road Sooner than Originally Planned

In other District 3 news, Leon County has reopened Meridian Road between John Hancock Drive and Timberlane Road. The road had been closed to address persistent flooding and water quality concerns.

Originally scheduled to begin June 1, the County accelerated the project during the coronavirus pandemic. Other drainage improvement construction will continue along Meridian Road until March 2021, but Meridian is planned to remain open to traffic throughout.

Historically, heavy rain caused water to run over Meridian Road and created hazardous conditions. To reduce flooding, Leon County improved drainage by installing large box culverts to move water beneath the roadway. Such improvements are also expected to better treat stormwater and reduce soil erosion, improving the health of adjacent wetlands and Lake Jackson.

The temporary closure of Meridian Road was part of a larger drainage improvement project for the area which started in the Spring of 2020. While Meridian Road has now reopened, other improvements are expected to be completed by March 2021, including additional grading and erosion control features outside of the roadway and will not require further road closures.

In Fall 2020, Leon County will finish the asphalt surface, requiring temporary short-term lane closures while work is completed--Meridian Road will remain open to traffic throughout the scheduled work.



Third Act: For 50+ Doers

After two or three decades of working for themselves or

others, many Americans aged 50 years old or older are seeking a "Third Act" in which they can continue to grow and contribute to the community while remaining economically and intellectually active.

By joining Domi Station's Third Act community, you can take full advantage of Domi's [Incubation](#) and [Coworking](#) programs as well as customized workshops and events just for you.

To learn more, please join one of the introductory webinar and program overviews:

Monday, September 14 at 12-1pm
Tuesday, September 15 at 6-7 pm

[Register Here](#)

DOMI STATION
PRESENTS



third act

A COMMUNITY FOR 50+ DOERS
Find meaning & freedom by
pursuing your passions

**Introductory
Webinar & Program
Overviews**

September 14th at 12-1pm
September 15th at 6-7pm

Register at
domistation.org/thirdact

domi

AARP
Florida Real Possibilities

OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC
VITALITY

Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > Head Start
- > School meal programs
- > Adult education grants
- > Historically Black colleges and universities
- > Public transportation and roads
- > Housing assistance
- > Emergency services
- > Medicare
- > Health clinics
- > Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- > Preventive health services

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

2020 Census - Make It Count

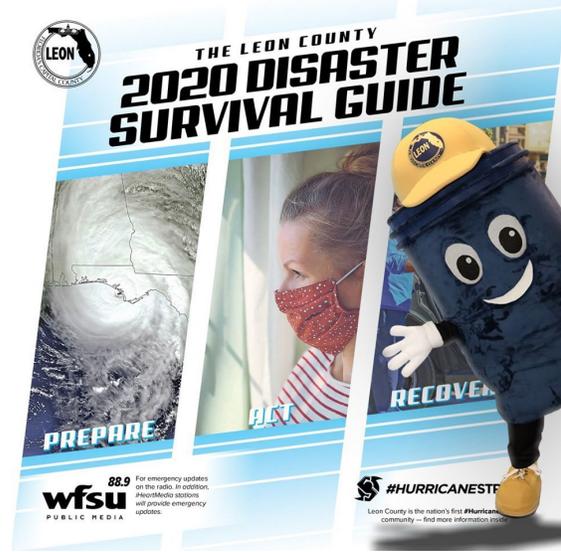
Time is running out to complete the 2020 Census! Have you completed yours yet? If not, please do so as soon as possible - the deadline is September 30th. You have the opportunity to respond online, by phone, or by mail. Federal law keeps your responses safe, so take your 2020 Census with peace of mind today - at 2020Census.gov

2020 Disaster Survival Guide

If you haven't yet done so, please review Leon County's 2020 Disaster Survival Guide. Printed copies of the guide are available at local hardware stores, COVID-19 testing sites, and County and City facilities. An online version can be found

at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket and www.HaveAHurricanePlan.com.

In addition, the County recently debuted its hurricane preparedness mascot, [Billy the Bucket](#), to help educate and inform families on critical disaster prep topics. Follow Billy on his journey to preparedness this hurricane season on Twitter at [@RealBillyBucket](#).



Annual Build Your Bucket Goes Virtual

As Leon County residents focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's still important to be prepared for the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season.

Leon County's annual **Build Your Bucket** event is one of the best ways to learn about disaster preparedness. This year, Build Your Bucket will be hosted virtually at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket.

The virtual Build Your Bucket experience features:

- Ways to learn about disaster preparedness from County departments, state agencies and community nonprofits who respond to disasters.
- Disaster preparedness resources including guidance on how to build a "bucket list" of critical disaster items like nonperishable food, medications, important documents, face masks, hand sanitizer, soap and more.
- Downloadable and printable version of the 2020 Leon County Disaster Survival Guide.
- Tips and tricks to stay safe from Billy The Bucket, Leon County's hurricane preparedness mascot.
- Information on how to stay connected and informed with the latest emergency information throughout hurricane season.



Disaster Preparedness for Your Pets

In addition to hurricanes, emergencies can come in many other forms; and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation.

Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe. No matter the situation, the best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared.

Check out these tips from the ASPCA for simple steps you can follow now to make sure you're ready before the next disaster strikes: <https://bit.ly/2rkZwuG>



The Minor Family's Miniature Schnauzers - Eleanor and Delano.

Stay Connected During a Disaster with Leon County Citizens Connect



Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source of emergency news and alerts. The most critical information will be delivered by push notifications directly to your phone or tablet.

Available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, Leon County's Citizens Connect App will put up-to-the-minute emergency information at your fingertips, such as weather alerts, road closings, sandbag locations, and so much more.

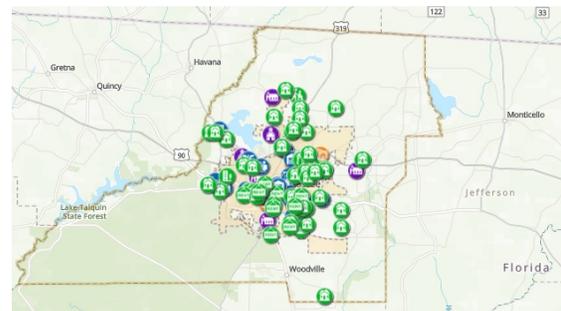
The Leon County Citizens Connect App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals, and other crews in the field. Through the mobile application, citizens can also access Leon County's Facebook page, Twitter account, and other important resources.

If you are unable to use your smartphone, tablet, or computer, timely and critical updates will be provided by emergency management officials on 88.9 WFSU-FM radio. By partnering with WFSU, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee will help ensure that any citizen with radio access stays informed before, during, and after a disaster. Also, visit Talgov.com for information and updates from the City of Tallahassee.

Additionally, iHeartMedia will also provide updates on the following radio stations: WFLA-FM 100.7, WFLF-FM 94.5, WTNT 94.9, KISS-FM 107.1, X-FM101.5, and The Beat-FM 105.3.

Major Developments Report

Did you know that there are currently over 1 million square feet of commercial space in various stages of permitting and development in our area? The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality's Major Ongoing and Proposed Developments Report provides key insights & highlights of these commercial projects, as well as residential projects. Check it all out at <https://bit.ly/3gRmjnD>.



Southern Living Highlights Tallahassee-Leon County

In case you missed it, Southern Living highlighted Tallahassee-Leon County as the "ultimate retirement spot"! Check out [this piece](#) that shows how our city and county are fostering innovation in our 50+ community!



TLH2GO.COM - Over 400 Local Restaurants Listed

Local restaurants need your support during this pandemic! Thanks to our Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality, you can now browse from over 400 Tallahassee-Leon County restaurants. Restaurants are classified by food type and geography - and the website also lists restaurant deals.

Check out this great website at: <https://tlh2go.com/>



VolunteerLEON



Whenever a disaster/emergency strikes, as Leon County Emergency Management and disaster response organizations work to respond to and recover from the event, volunteers will be needed to support this effort. If you are interested in assisting by volunteering, [please provide your information on the form on the bottom of the form located here.](#) Whenever there is a need for disaster volunteers, we will then be able to message you information on the current needs and how to connect with organizations that are requesting assistance.

In the event of a disaster partner organizations such as [the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team, Second Harvest of the Big Bend](#) and others will be posting their critical needs, The best volunteers are trained in advance. We encourage you to become affiliated with response and recovery organizations during blue skies, so that you can receive orientation, training and other information that will make your service more effective and meaningful.

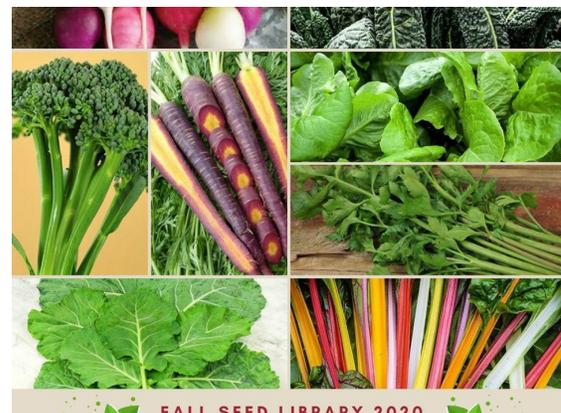
[Click here](#) for a list of COVID-19 Emergency Opportunities. For more information/questions please contact VolunteerLEON at 850-606-1970.

Fall Seed Library Program

The Fall Seed Library Program has begun! Visit any library branch location and check out up to three seed packets each month. No need to return them, they are yours to keep.

Seeds are also available for curbside pickup. When you arrive, call the number on the sign and let them know which 3 seed packets you'd like.

Click [here](#) to learn more and [here](#) for seed and planting information. [Contact your library](#) for more information.



Library Teen Advisory Board

The Teen Advisory Board is an opportunity for teens to have a voice in the development of teen programs at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. While earning volunteer service hours, members will plan and implement programming as a group, as well as market programs to local teens.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Day: 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Time: 4:00 - 5:00pm

To register for the Zoom link, please fill out the [Zoom link](#) registration form.



Dementia Education Series

with the  **Alzheimer's PROJECT**
ForOurCaregivers.com



Learn about memory issues for yourself or a loved one.

via the Alzheimer's Project Facebook page



Dementia Education Series

Alzheimer's Project, Inc.'s Dementia Education Series is open to the community and is a great way to learn about memory issues for yourself or a loved one. Dementias such as Alzheimer's disease can cause individuals to lose language and memory skills, creating communication challenges.

September 10, 11am

Understanding Dementia: Improving Communication with Your Loved One

*Register for the Zoom link

here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdeutrDliGd1hEU2rONAN0WRmbellLqj-U>

September 17, 11am

Memory Problems: What You Can Do

*Register for the Zoom link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpd-gvqjksH9V2dTyWbGw8IKfya2NUCfS1>

September 24, 11am

Healthy Roles and Relationships: Connecting with Your Loved One

*Register for the Zoom link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvd-ypqDkpHNBAQcTsAPqSyUXx7VvYCFxu>

**Once you have registered, you will automatically receive an email with the Zoom link.

This series will be streamed on Zoom and on Facebook Live via the Alzheimer's Project's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/alzprojectTLH/>

First Friday Fun with 4-H

Adventure Bags are ready for the upcoming 4-H virtual programming at the Library!

Each month's event will have it's own special Adventure Bag. Pick them up at any library location. No need to register for the Adventure Bags.

Friday, September 4th (TODAY) at 4:00 p.m. will start the virtual 4-H series, and the topic is all about pets!



For more information and sign-up, visit: https://www.facebook.com/events/752024512257333/?event_time_id=752024515590666

You can also visit Leon County 4-H's website here: <https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/4-h-at-the-library/home>

Make sure to upload a picture of your pet on the site! They will be featured during show and tell on the call! This program is for students age 5 - 18.

Zoom Pop-Up Book Club

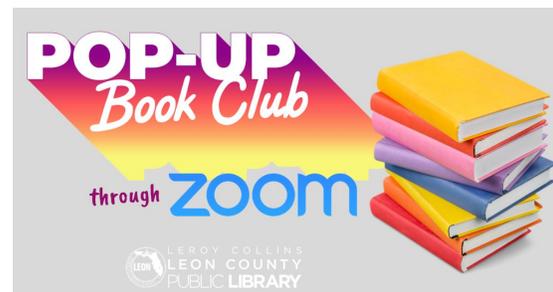
The Leon County Library System's Pop-Up Book Club via Zoom is the 2nd Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Schedule:

September 12: "Becoming" by Michelle Obama

October 10: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

November 14: "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah



You can register for the Zoom link [HERE](#).

You will only need to register once for all future Virtual Pop-Up Book Club meetings. An email with the Zoom link will be sent automatically.

Upcoming County Commission Meetings

- **Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting**
- Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.
- This is a virtual meeting. Leon County will be broadcasting the meeting on Comcast channel 16, Prism channels 16 & 1016-HD, the Leon County Florida Channel or Roku, the County's [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#) and the County's [website](#).

Public comment will be accepted via electronic submission. Citizens wishing to provide input for the September 15th meeting may submit their comments at <https://leoncountyfl.gov/PublicComments>. To ensure adequate time for Commissioner review, comments should be submitted by 8 p.m. on September 14, 2020. Comments will be distributed to the Commissioners prior to the September 15, 2020 3 p.m. meeting. Comments submitted after the 8 p.m. deadline will be added to the official record of the meeting, but the County cannot guarantee that the Commissioners will have adequate time to review those comments prior to the meeting. Anyone needing assistance with submitting comments may contact County Administration via email at LCG_PublicComments@leoncountyfl.gov or via phone at 850-606-5300

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- **Board of County Commissioners Virtual Public Hearings**
 - Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
1. First Public Hearing for Adoption of the FY 20/21 Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budget

2. First & Only Public Hearing to Approve the Resolution Adopting the Fire Rescue Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll and the Certification of the Entire Roll to the Tax Collector
 3. First & Only Public Hearing to Approve the Resolution Adopting the Solid Waste Disposal Services Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll and the Certification of the Entire Roll to Tax Collector
 4. First & Only Public Hearing to Approve the Resolution Adopting the Stormwater Non-ad Valorem Assessment Roll and Certification of the Entire Roll to Tax Collector
 5. Second & Final Public Hearing on a Development Agreement Between Leon County and Golden Oak Land Group, LLC, and Cawthon Family Properties, LLC
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- **Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Virtual Board of Directors Meeting**

- Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 3:00 pm

The public can access the meeting in real time via livestreaming on [WCOT](#) (Comcast and CenturyLink channel 13) and [Talgov.com](#). Additionally, Leon County will be broadcasting the meeting on Comcast channel 16, Prism channels 16 & 1016-HD, the Leon County Florida Channel or Roku, the County's [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel.

For a complete list of all Leon County Commission meetings, [click here](#).